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TRENDS

ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, July 16, 1992 -- Freight traffic on the nation's railroads dropped slightly during the week ended July 11, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

"While the overall figures are not favorable, they were distorted by a substantial decline in coal traffic," said Dr. Harvey A. Levine, vice president of the AAR's economics and finance department. "Without the 7.7 percent decline in coal traffic during the week, rail traffic would have increased by 2.3 percent instead of declining by 0.5 percent."

Dr. Levine noted that intermodal traffic continued to show gains from the year-earlier period during the week. Automotive, chemical and metallic ore loadings also showed strong gains during the week, he added.

Overall, railroads originated 311,188 carloads of freight during the week, down 0.5 percent from the corresponding week of 1991. Loadings were up 4.1 percent in the West, but down 5.0 percent in the East.

Intermodal traffic, which is not included in carloadings, rose 4.1 percent to 119,990 trailers and containers. The AAR estimated ton-miles at 19.6 billion, down 0.5 percent from the comparable 1991 week.

For the first 28 weeks of 1992, railroads originated 8,962,031 carloads of freight, up 2.0 percent from the comparable 1991 period. Intermodal volume totaled 3,449,056 containers and trailers, up 7.9 percent. Total traffic was estimated at 564.4 billion ton-miles, up 4.2 percent from the first 28 weeks of 1991.

Railroads reporting to the AAR account for 94 percent of carloadings and 97 percent of intermodal traffic.

(more)

WEEKLY TRAFFIC OF MAJOR RAILROADS
FOR THE WEEK ENDING JULY 11, 1992

CARLOADS ORIGINATED, BY COMMODITY GROUP

COMMODITY	WEEK ENDING JULY 11, 1992	COMPARISON WITH SAME WEEK OF 1991	CHANGE	COMPARISON WITH PRECEDING WEEK	CHANGE
Grain	26,413	25,880	2.1 %	24,011	10.0 %
Farm Products, Ex. Grain	1,964	1,226	60.2	1,968	-0.2
Metallic Ores	21,063	17,883	17.8	20,680	1.9
Coal	108,619	117,621	-7.7	110,112	-1.4
Crushed Stone, Sand & Gravel	14,610	14,575	0.2	13,088	11.6
Nonmetallic Minerals	9,152	9,997	-8.5	7,904	15.8
Grain Mill Products	9,735	9,933	-2.0	8,985	8.3
Food & Kindred Products	8,639	8,590	0.6	7,925	9.0
Primary Forest Products	8,898	9,403	-5.4	8,087	10.0
Lumber & Wood Products	5,254	5,251	0.1	5,318	-1.2
Pulp, Paper & Allied Products	10,919	10,357	5.4	10,276	6.3
Chemicals	28,175	27,069	4.1	24,808	13.6
Petroleum Products	6,124	5,322	15.1	5,328	14.9
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	9,722	9,461	2.8	8,782	10.7
Coke	5,953	5,272	12.9	5,455	9.1
Metals & Products	8,229	8,746	-5.9	8,981	-8.4
Motor Vehicles & Equipment	12,685	11,333	11.9	14,188	-10.6
Waste & Scrap Materials	8,008	7,483	7.0	7,315	9.5
All Other Carloads	7,026	7,328	-4.1	6,769	3.8
Total	**311,188**	**312,730**	**-0.5 %**	**299,980**	**3.7 %**

SUMMARY: CARLOADS ORIGINATED, INTERMODAL TRAFFIC AND ESTIMATED TON-MILES

TRAFFIC	WEEK ENDING JULY 11, 1992 1992	1991	CHANGE	CUMULATIVE: 28 WEEKS ENDING JULY 11, 1992 1992	1991	CHANGE
Carloads Originated	**311,188**	**312,730**	**-0.5 %**	**8,962,031**	**8,782,538**	**2.0 %**
Intermodal Traffic Originated						
Trailers	58,469	56,401	3.7	1,709,701	1,652,088	3.5
Containers	61,521	58,907	4.4	1,739,355	1,543,394	12.7
Total	**119,990**	**115,308**	**4.1**	**3,449,056**	**3,195,482**	**7.9**
Estimated Ton-Miles						
Class I Railroads (Billions)	**19.6**	**19.7**	**-0.5 %**	**564.4**	**541.7**	**4.2 %**

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